



Illustration by Debbie McNiel

SAUSSUREA WEBERI
WEBER'S SAW-WORT

Weber's Saw-wort is a perennial that is 5-20 cm high and arising from a woody rootstock. The lance-shaped leaf blades are coarsely toothed, up to 8 cm long, and have a broad petiole. The alternate leaves are crowded on the stem, reduced and lacking petioles towards the top. Foliage is covered with long, tangled hairs when young but becomes glabrous with age. The purple flowering heads are borne in a dense cluster subtended by leaves at the top of the stem. The broad involucral bracts of the heads have rounded tips and are 11-15 mm long. All of the flowers are disk flowers; ray flowers are absent. The achene has a bristly pappus on top; the longest bristles united at the base. Flowering in July-early August.

SAUSSUREA is distinguished by the clustered, purple, rayless flowering heads, and occupies high elevation habitat. The similar *S. DENSA* has narrow, pointed involucral bracts.